

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EB/OPF/FPD:RHKNICKMEYER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO ROME, EC BRUSSELS,
GENEVA, MOSCOW, TOKYO, MAY 30, FROM LONDON RPTD TO YOU:

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TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: SECOND SESSION OF IWC PREP GROUP: CONCLUSION

1. FOLLOWING BRIEF TECHNICAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN US AND
CANADA ABOUT DEFINITION OF RESERVE STOCK, EGYPT PRESENTED
PAPER ON GRAIN PRICE PREFERENCES FOR LDC IMPORT-
ERS. EGYPTIAN DEL STRESSED DISTINCTION BETWEEN FOOD AID
AND PREFERENTIAL (OR TWO-TIER) PRICING. AUSTRALIA RES-
PONDED BY QUESTIONING VALIDITY OF TYING BALANCE OF PAY-
MENTS RELIEF FOR MSAS TO COMMERCIAL GRAIN IMPORTS --
BOTH FROM STANDPOINT OF BURDENSHARING AMONG DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES AND OF RESPONSIVENESS TO NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL
MSAS. ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF WHAT FORCED SALES BY DC
GRAIN EXPORTERS TO LDCS MIGHT DO TO MARKETS OF ARGENTINA
-- ONLY EXPORTER WITH CLAIM TO BEING AN LDC. US AND
CANADA TOOK SIMILAR LINE. INDIA ATTEMPTED TO DEFEND
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EGYPTIAN PAPER.

2. CONCLUDING PAPER ON PROVISION IN NEW GRAIN AGREEMENT FOR COORDINATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES PRESENTED BY CANADA US AND AUSTRALIA BOTH COMMENTED FAVORABLY. JAPAN QUESTIONED NEED (FROM IMPORTER STANDPOINT) FOR SUCH PROVISIONS. INDIA AND EGYPT STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FLEXIBILITY IN APPLYING SUCH PROVISIONS.

3. CHAIRMAN (EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PAROTTE) RAISED QUESTION OF FUTURE WORK BY PROPOSING THAT SECRETARIAT PREPARE ANALYTICAL PAPERS FOR NEXT MEETING DEALING WITH DEFINITIONS, MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES. THIS WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED, BUT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING USSR, CANADA, AND LDCS STRESSED NEED FOR ANALYSIS OF PRICE PROVISIONS AS BASIS FOR NEW AGREEMENT ALONG WITH WORK ON RESERVES. EGYPT, ECHOING EARLIER REMARKS BY JAPAN, CALLED DIRECTLY FOR MORE DEFINITIVE EXPRESSION OF US VIEWS ON RESERVE PROVISION. US DEL SAID THESE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. AUSTRALIA ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR SHARPER DECLARATION OF NATIONAL VIEWS, BUT EC CHALLENGED THIS AS LIKELY TO BE BEYOND GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE.

4. IN DISCUSSING DATE FOR NEXT PREP GROUP SESSION, CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT FOLLOWING REGULAR COUNCIL SESSION JUNE 30 - JULY 4. THIS SEEMED ACCEPTABLE TO ALL BUT EC DEL, WHO CHALLENGED PROPRIETY OF SCHEDULING ANOTHER SESSION UNTIL COUNCIL HAD REVIEWED PRELIMINARY PREP GROUP REPORT, TO BE PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT, AND DECIDED UPON NEED FOR FURTHER SESSIONS. US DEL ACKNOWLEDGED TECHNICAL CORRECTNESS OF EC VIEW BUT SAID THAT FURTHER WORK OBVIOUSLY NEEDED AND SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT DELAY. CHAIRMAN WILL INFORMALLY CONSULT WITH MAIN PARTICIPANTS TO FIND ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR NEXT MEETING.

5. EC DEL JACQUOT SAID PRIVATELY AFTER SESSION ENDED THAT EC COMMISSION WOULD NOW NEED TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF PURSUING NEGOTIATIONS ON GRAINS IN IWC CONTEXT AND THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE RECONSIDERATION BY EC COUNCIL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATING EXCLUSIVELY IN MTN GRAINS SUB-GROUP. IT APPEARS THAT FURTHER SESSION OF PREP GROUP CANNOT BE DECIDED UPON PRIOR TO NEXT IWC SESSION.
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